





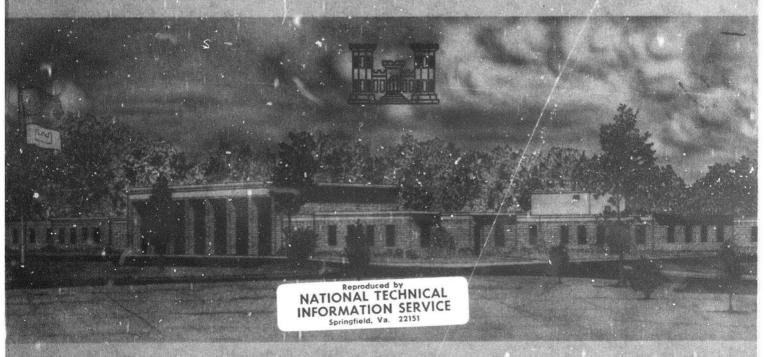
PENETRATION RESISTANCE OF SOILS

Report I

TESTS WITH CIRCULAR FOOTINGS IN AIR-DRY SANDS

by

A. J. Green



November 1970

Sponsored by Assistant Secretary of the Army (R&D), Department of the Army

Conducted by U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi

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FOREWORD

The study reported herein was conducted during the period 1966-1969 and was funded by Project 4A013001A91D, "In-House Laboratory Initiated Research Program" Item S, sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (R&D).

The project was directed by Mr. A. J. Green, Research Projects Group, Mobility Research Branch (MRB), Mobility and Environmental (M&E) Division, at the U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (WES). The test program was carried out by personnel of the MRB under the general supervision of Mr. W. J. Turnbull, former Technical Assistant for Soils and Environmental Engineering, and Messrs. W. G. Shockley and S. J. Knight, Chief and Assistant Chief, M&E Division; and under the direct supervision of Dr. D. R. Freitag, former Chief, MRB, and now Chief, Office of Technical Programs and Plans, WES. The report was prepared by Mr. Green.

COL John R. Oswalt, Jr., CE, COL Levi A. Brown, CE, and COL Ernest D. Peixotto, CE, were Directors of WES during this study. Messrs. J. B. Tiffany and F. R. Brown were Technical Directors.

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NOTATION

a	Constant of proportionality
Α	Area of footing
ъ	Length of footing
c	Soil cohesion
d	Width or diameter of a footing
d _c ,d _q ,d _y	Depth factors
Dr	Soil relative density
F	Force on footing
Fp	Vertical force on cylinder base
Fs	Vertical force along cylinder sidewalls
F _{t.}	Total vertical force on cylinder
3	Gravity
G	Penetration resistance gradient
ic,iq,iy	Inclination factors
K	Coefficient of earth pressure
Ŀ	Significant linear dimension of footing
N _c ,N _q ,N _y	Primary bearing capacity factors
Nqr	Combined bearing capacity factor
P,q	Unit pressure; mean pressure
Ps	Cylinder side all friction per unit area
${f q}_{f f}$	Unit vertical bearing capacity
s	Circumference of footing
s _c ,s _q ,s _y	Shape factors
v	Rate of loading
z	Sinkage
β	Viscosity
γ	Density (unit weight of soil)
Ø	Soil friction angle

CONVERSION FACTORS, METRIC TO BRITISH AND BRITISH TO METRIC UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Metric units of measurement used in this report can be converted to British units as follows:

Multiply	By	To Obtain			
millimeters	3.937	inches			
centimeters	0.3937	inches			
meters	3.2808	feet			
newtons	0.225	pounds			
kilonewtons per square meter	0.1450	pounds per square inch			
kilonewtons per cubic meter	271.4472	pounds per cubic inch			

British units of measurement used in this report can be converted to metric units as follows:

Multiply	Ву	To Obtain		
inches	2.54	centimeters		
pounds per square inch	6.895	kilonewtons per square meter		
pounds per cubic foot	0.01602	grams per cubic centimeter		

SUMMARY

The study reported herein is an analysis of the penetration of circular plates and smooth-walled and rough-walled cylinders in two sands, each prepared at three strength levels. The penetration elements ranged from 2.5 to 61 cm in diameter, and the speed of penetration in all tests was 2.5 mm/sec.

No basic differences were found in the shape of the penetration resistance curves for plates and cylinders, and the forces on the base of the cylinders were only slightly higher than those on the plates. The forces due to friction on the sidewalls of the cylinders were greater for the rough-walled cylinders than for the smooth, as could be expected, but they did not vary systematically with sand density in either case.

Collapse of the data into a single function for sand was achieved by plotting a dimensionless pressure parameter $P/\gamma d$ versus a penetration parameter z/d. This gave evidence that pressure-sinkage relations, and thus bearing capacity, of large footings can be predicted from model tests. Dimensionless scaling relations and theoretical equations that include a friction angle term were also found to predict bearing capacity, but the problems in measuring a true friction angle make the use of these relations questionable for this purpose. The tests were deemed successful and eliminated irregularities encountered in the results of routine tests. The data should also be of great value in investigations of depth factors for bearing capacity of sand. This report will be supplemented by a report on similar tests in clay.

PENETRATION RESISTANCE OF SOILS

TESTS WITH CIRCULAR FOOTINGS IN AIR-DRY SANDS

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1. Bearing capacity of soils has been one of the principal topics of discussion in the field of soil mechanics for several decades. In the last few years, many papers have been written on the subject, and a number of theories or postulations have been offered. Many of these represent attempts to add to the basic relations such items as slope, depth, roughness, and placement mode factors (e.g. driven versus poured-in-place piles). 1-6

 A close agreement between theoretical prediction and test results in cohesionless soils seldom has been obtained, as was pointed out by Hvorslev. The reasons given for this vary from author to author. Some of the reasons are as follows:
 - a. Improper placement of the sand, resulting in test specimens that were layered or tended to increase or decrease in density with depth.
 - b. Lack of reliable measurement of a density-depth profile.
 - c. Boundary effects in test bins that were too shallow, too narrow, or too small in diameter.
 - d. Failure to recognize the existence of the small amount of effective cohesion exhibited by some sands.
 - e. Inaccurate determination of the internal friction of the soil (e.g. curved Mohr envelopes and shell effects in triaxial specimens).
- 2. Depth and other factors given by some authors were obtained through empirical or quasi-empirical means and, in some cases, were based on a relatively small number of tests in a single sand. Thus, they may be questioned on the basis of reasoning similar to that given above. It was recommended during a mobility consultants' conference at the U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (WES) that penetration tests be performed in uniform sand and clay, using systematic variation in the diameter

of the footings. The results should be useful in both mobility and basic bearing capacity problems.

3. Not all of the variables were studied in the program reported herein. However, for the tests that were made, every effort was made to avoid the pitfalls of testing that generally have obscured the reliability of penetration test results. Equipment was fabricated to facilitate proper placement of the sand and to enable an accurate determination of the in situ density-depth relation after each specimen was constructed. Test bins of ample width and depth were provided, and consideration was given to the possible presence of cohesion in the sands tested and to the accurate determination of the internal friction of the test soils.

Purpose and Scope

- 4. The principal objective of this program was to establish scaling relations for families of plates and cylinders. To realize this objective, the effects of density, relative density, friction angle, and sand type (grain size and shape) on penetration resistance were determined. In addition the variations in penetration resistance that resulted from varying the roughness and depth of penetration of the footings were investigated.
- 5. Two air-dry sands were used in the program, and three series of tests were conducted in each. The model footings, ranging from 2.54 to 60.96 cm* (1 to 24 in.) in diameter, were circular plates and smooth- and rough-walled cylinders; the bases of all footings were rough. The cylinders were used to eliminate the inward flow of sand which occurs over the plates.
- 6. This report contains an explanation of the functions of the equipment used, an analysis of results obtained, and a comparison of these results with results computed from existing bearing capacity relations. It will be supplemented by a report of similar tests in clay.

^{*} A table of factors for converting metric to British and British to metric units of measurement is presented on page ix.

PART II: SOILS, EQUIPMENT, AND TEST PROGRAM

Test Soils

7. The two sands utilized in this study were tested in the air-dry state. One was a washed sand from an alluvial plain in the Big Black River basin near Vicksburg, Mississippi (mortar sand), and the other was a dune sand from near Yuma, Arizona (Yuma sand). Gradation and classification data are presented in fig. 1.

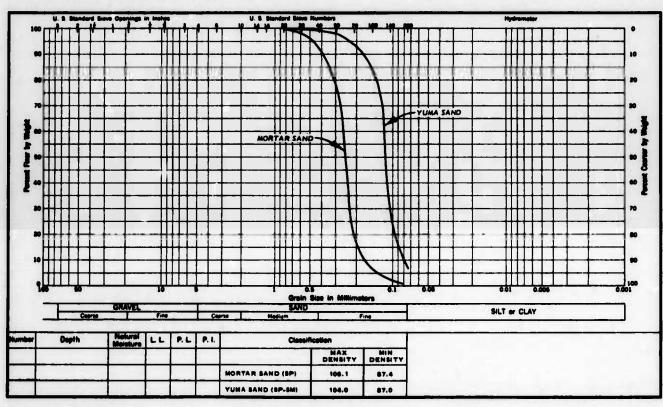


Fig. 1. Soil gradation and classification data (densities are in pounds per cubic foot)

Equipment

Soil bins

8. The soil bins (fig. 2) are approximately 3.54 m wide, 1.68 m deep, and 51.82 m long. At one end of the second lane shown in fig. 2, a 12.19-m-long portion is 2.13 m deep. Tests with large penetration elements



Fig. 2. Soil bins



Fig. 3. Sand spreader in use

were made in this area whenever possible. Sand spreader

9. Sand was placed in the bins with a spreader (fig. 3) designed so that the height of fall and rate of flow of the sand could be controlled.

The density of the sand could be increased as the height of sand fall was increased and as the rate of sand flow was decreased. The effectiveness of this apparatus is discussed in paragraphs 33-34. achieve a high relative density (80 to 90 percent) in the Yuma sand (series 7), it was necessary to compact the test section. The sand was placed in the bins in 15-cm layers, and each layer was trafficked with a pneumatic-tired roller (fig. 4) until the required density was achieved for that layer.

Density-measuring devices

10. Gravimetric. The apparatus shown in fig. 5a was used to measure the in situ density of the top 5 cm of soil at selected eleva-

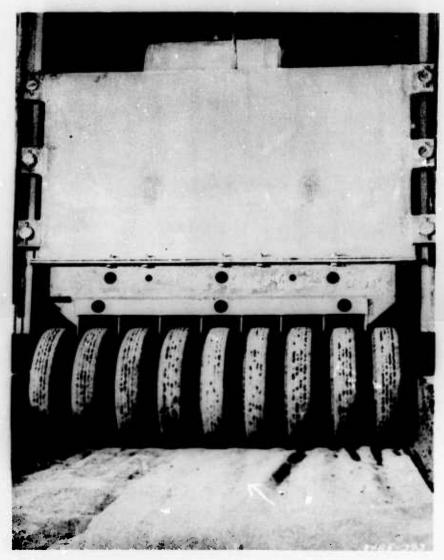
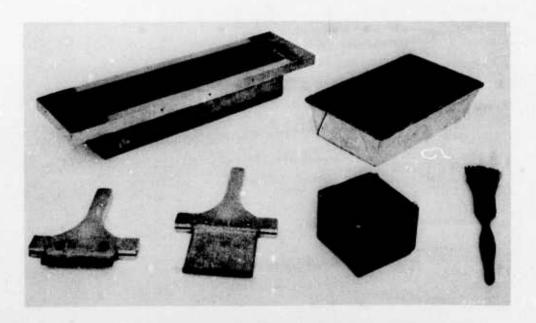
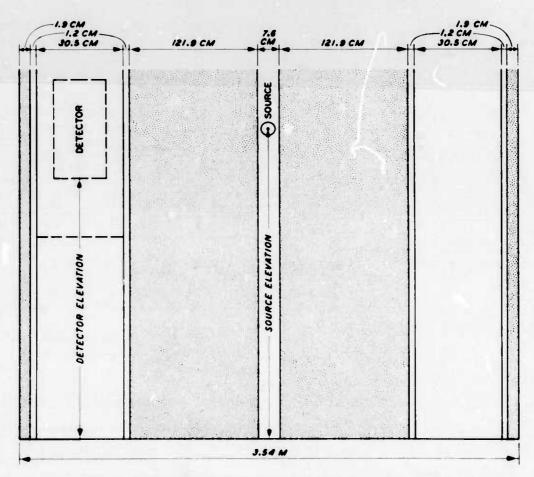


Fig. 4. Pneumatic-tired roller used for compacting test sections

tions as the section was prepared. The steel box shown was carefully forced into the material, and the material was removed (using the scoops shown in fig. 5a) and weighed. Since the volume of the box was known, the weight per unit volume of the excavated material could be computed.



a. Gravimetric density-measuring apparatus



b. Test sample cross section with access tubes of nuclear density-measuring device in place

Fig. 5. Density measurement systems

11. Nuclear. Since a nonmechanical device was desired to obtain an in situ depth-density profile after the sample had been prepared, a direct transmission "nuclear density device" was used. The placement of access tubes in the sand test sections is shown in fig. 5b. These tubes were made in 15-cm sections so that they would not interfere with the sand-placing operation when a low height of fall was desirable. Sections were added as the depth of the sand was increased. The reading at a particular point was assumed to reflect the average density of a specimen with a major axis of approximately 122 cm and a minor axis of 7-10 cm. Additional details regarding this equipment are furnished in the second report in this series.

Loading apparatus

12. The apparatus (fig. 6) used to push the penetration elements into the soil mass is capable of producing a vertical thrust of 448 kN at speeds up to 3.33 mm/sec. Speed of penetration during this test program was 2.5 mm/sec. The ram is powered by a shockmounted hydraulic pump system. Prior to a testing cycle, the surface of the entire test section was carefully leveled, and a penetration began with the plate or cylinder slightly above the surface of the soil so that the ram had achieved a speed of 2.5 mm/sec before it made contact.

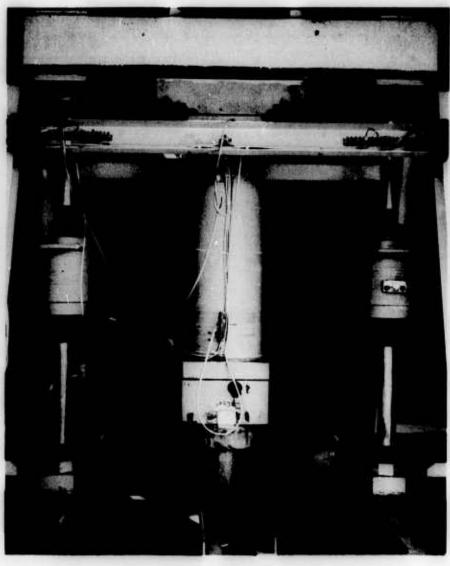


Fig. 6. Loading apparatus

The hydraulic pump supplied sufficient pressure to maintain a constant speed during the penetration, and the test was stopped when the desired depth was reached.

Model footings

- 13. The diameters of the plates were 2.54, 5.08, 10.16, 20.32, 30.48, 40.64, and 60.96 cm; those of the cylinders were the same, except no 2.54-cm-diam cylinders were tested. Not all footings were used in each test series, as shown in table 1 and the tabulation in paragraph 17. The plates and the bases of the cylinders were designed so that bending would be minimized. For example, the base of the 60.96-cm cylinder was a solid steel plate approximately 23 cm thick. Relatively thin plates, when used, were reinforced with vertical webs as appropriate.
- 14. The bases of all footings were roughened by gluing sand to them. The sides of the cylinders were roughened in the same manner; however, the sand could be removed easily with a solvent when tests with smooth-walled cylinders were required.
 - 15. The original cylinder design provided for a separate measure of

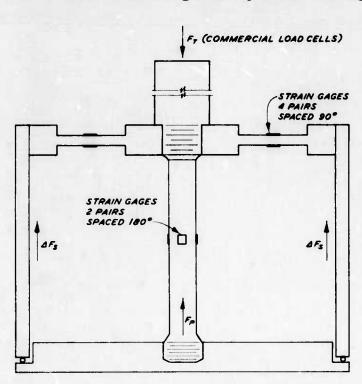


Fig. 7. Schematic of instrumented cylinders

the vertical force along the sidewalls F and the total vertical force on the cylinder F_+ . However, the portion of the cylinder intended to provide a measure of F (the four pairs of strain gages spaced 90 deg in fig. 7) gave erratic results, probably because during handling the strain-sensitive elements were damaged by excessive displacement. Therefore, the instrumentation system was altered so that the vertical force on the base of the cylinder Fp (the two pairs of strain gages spaced 180 deg in fig. 7) and F_{t} were recorded. the base of one 20.32-cm-diam

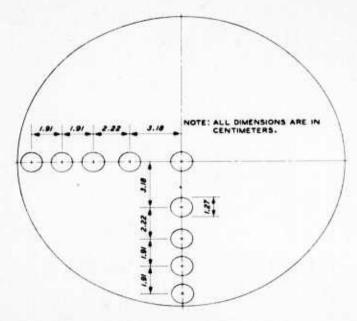


Fig. 8. Pressure transducers in 20.32-cm-diam plate (covered with membrane during test)

cylinder, nine deflecting diaphragm-type transducers were mounted (fig. 8) to obtain a measure of the distribution of forces at the soil-footing interface.

Recording equipment

16. Forces and displacements obtained during the tests were recorded on an analog magnetic tape and an x-y recorder.

Test Program

17. As previously mentioned, three series of tests were conducted in each of two sands with plates and smooth-walled and rough-walled cylinders ranging from 2.54 to 60.96 cm in diameter, but the entire range of footings was not used in each test series. In the first two series, a few of the cylinders were instrumented to obtain a measure of the vertical component of the forces on the sidewalls. Examination of these early data indicated a need to instrument as many of the cylinders as practical to obtain this measurement. Series 3, the first series in mortar sand, did not include tests with plates. The complete test program is outlined on the following page.

Sand	Test	Density (Unit Weight)	Rela- tive Den- sity			Fo	otings,	cm Dia	m	
Type	Series	kN/m^3	%	2.54	5.08	10.16	20.32	30.48	40.64	60.96
				Pla	tes					
Yuma	1 2 7	14.14 14.93 15.87	20 52 85	x	X X X	x x x	X X X	x x x	x 	
Mortar	3 5 6	15.05 16.40 14.72	55 92 34		x x	x x	x x	x x	==	
			Smoot	h-Wall	ed Cyl	inders				
Yuma	1 2 7	14.14 14.93 15.87	20 52 85		 x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x	 x
Mortar	3 5 6	15.05 16.40 14.72	55 92 34		X X X	x x x	X X X	x x x	X X X	X X X
			Roug	h-Wall	ed Cyl	inders				
Yuma	1 2 7	14.14 14.93 15.87	20 52 85		 x	X X X	 x	X X X	 x	
Mortar	3 5 6	15.05 16.40 14.72	55 92 34		X X X	X X X	x x x	X X X	x x x	x

PART III: BEARING CAPACITY RELATIONS

18. The classical bearing capacity relation as given by Terzaghi in 1943 is:

$$q_f = cN_c + N_q + \frac{1}{2} \gamma dN_{\gamma}$$
 (1)

where

 q_{r} = unit vertical bearing capacity

c = soil cohesion

 N_c , N_q , N_{γ} = primary bearing capacity factors

 $\gamma = soil density$

d = width or diameter of footing

The bearing capacity factors in this relation were derived from considerations of uniform, normal loading of a long, rectangular area. When different shapes, depths of burial, and nonuniform or inclined loads are involved, the basic relation must be modified.

19. Meyerhof and Brinch Hansen prepared the following relation:

$$\mathbf{q_f} = \mathbf{cN_c} \mathbf{s_c} \mathbf{d_c} \mathbf{i_c} + \mathbf{qN_q} \mathbf{s_q} \mathbf{d_q} \mathbf{i_q} + \frac{1}{2} \gamma \mathbf{dN_{\gamma}} \mathbf{s_{\gamma}} \mathbf{d_{\gamma}} \mathbf{i_{\gamma}}$$
 (2)

where

 s_c , s_q , s_{γ} = shape factors

 d_c , d_q , d_{γ} = depth factors

 i_c , i_q , i_{γ} = inclination factors

This form represents an attempt to include shape, depth, and inclination factors. Several of these factors in equation 2 were empirically determined. Other researchers (De Beer and Ladanyi) have suggested the inclusion of such factors, but do not concur with the general form of the relation given by Meyerhof and Brinch Hansen. Meyerhof suggested a variable friction angle, with the variations being a function of footing shape and the associated changes in stress condition. Kishida developed a formula for accounting for changes in the friction angle during shear.

20. Meyerhof and Brinch Hansen are in essential agreement as to the general method of including shape, depth, and inclination factors. However, the specific relations derived by Brinch Hansen are different from those

first derived by Meyerhof. More recently Meyerhof has described a set of relations similar to those of Brinch Hansen. Nevertheless, it is believed instructive to examine both general types of relations. This is done below.

Meyerhof's Equation

21. Meyerhof's assumed rupture patterns (fig. 9) are somewhat different from the classical patterns given by Terzaghi. For cohesionless

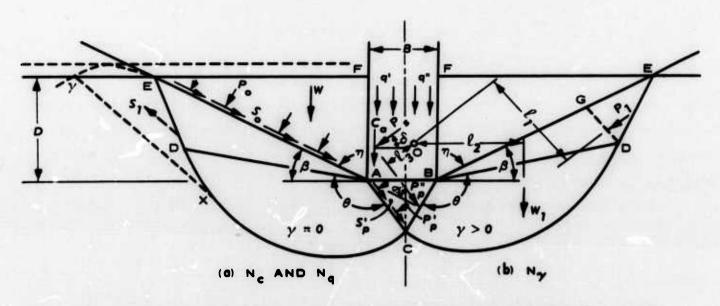


Fig. 9. Determination of general bearing capacity factors for strip foundation with rough base (after Meyerhof⁴)

soils, the general equation for the mean pressure q beneath a footing is given as

$$q = \frac{1}{2} \gamma ds_{\gamma} N_{q\gamma}$$

or

$$\frac{\mathbf{q}}{\gamma \mathbf{d}} = \frac{\mathbf{s}_{\gamma}^{\mathrm{N}} \mathbf{q} \gamma}{2} \tag{3}$$

where

 γ = unit weight of the soil

d = width or diameter of the footing

 s_{γ} = shape factor to be applied on other than infinitely long strip foundations

 $N_{q\gamma}$ = combined bearing capacity factor accounting for the classical N_q and N_{γ} values of bearing capacity theories

22. Meyerhof gives a separate set of shape factors for circular footings. These factors vary with the penetration parameter z/d, the friction angle, and the type of placement (i.e. buried or driven). The bearing capacity factor $N_{q\gamma}$ is related to the bearing capacity factors N_q and N_{γ} ; but other factors are involved in the computation, so that $N_{q\gamma}$ is a function of: (a) width (or diameter) of the footing, (b) unit weight of the soil, (c) angle of internal friction of the soil, (d) coefficient of earth pressure at rest, (e) sidewall friction acting on the footing (smooth or rough), and (f) depth of footing. The net result is that instead of there being a solution only for circular footings in a cohesionless soil of a specific consistency, solutions also can be obtained for buried or driven footings with smooth or rough sidewalls. Each of these four basic solutions varies as the assumed earth pressure coefficient for a given soil consistency. Solutions were derived (fig. 10) for rough-walled, buried, cylindrical footings at two soil consistencies (friction angle = 35° and 38°)

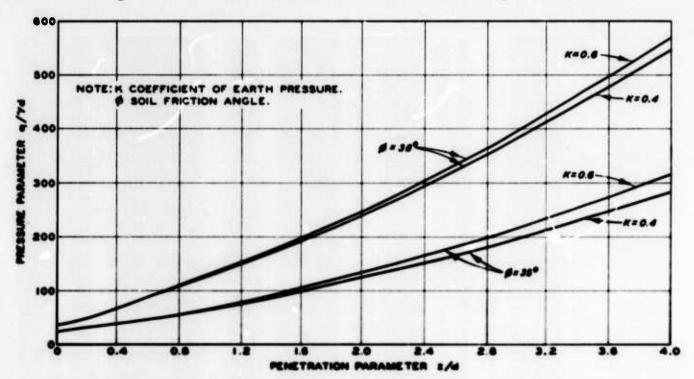


Fig. 10. Meyerhof's equation for buried cylinders with rough sidewalls in cohesionless soils

and two earth pressure coefficients (0.4 and 0.6).

23. This combination of assumptions (i.e. rough-walled and buried) represents the highest obtainable set of values for the pressure parameter $q/\gamma d$ at a particular set of values of the friction angle and earth pressure coefficient. These values correspond very well with the solution of Brinch Hansen's equation (equation 4 below). The lowest values that can be obtained by varying the assumptions used in solving the Meyerhof equation are approximately 35 percent lower than those shown in fig. 10. The major part of this difference (\approx 25 percent) is due to the difference in the placement factor (i.e. the values for driven footings are \approx 25 percent lower than for the buried ones when the other assumptions are held constant).

Brinch Hansen's Equation

24. Brinch Hansen's work, starting from a more classical point of view, uses each of the three classical bearing capacity factors— $N_{\rm c}$, $N_{\rm q}$, and N_{γ} —and adds empirically determined shape, depth, and inclination factors. For cohesionless soils and vertically loaded circular elements, his equation reads:

$$\frac{\mathbf{q}}{\gamma \mathbf{d}} = \frac{1}{2} N_{\gamma} \mathbf{s}_{\gamma} \mathbf{d}_{\gamma} + \frac{\mathbf{z}}{\mathbf{d}} N_{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{q}}$$
 (4)

The $q/\gamma d$ values are graphically represented in fig. 11 as functions of the penetration parameter z/d. The N_q and N_γ values were obtained from fig. 1 of reference 1. The shape and depth factors also are given in reference 1.

Comparison of Meyerhof and Brinch Hansen Equations

25. These equations cannot by any means be called exact ones, not even with the assumption of a perfectly plastic behavior of the soil. While this is obvious for Brinch Hansen's equation from its very development, it is true also for the equations of Meyerhof, where the concepts of the equivalent free surface and the assumption of uniform stresses

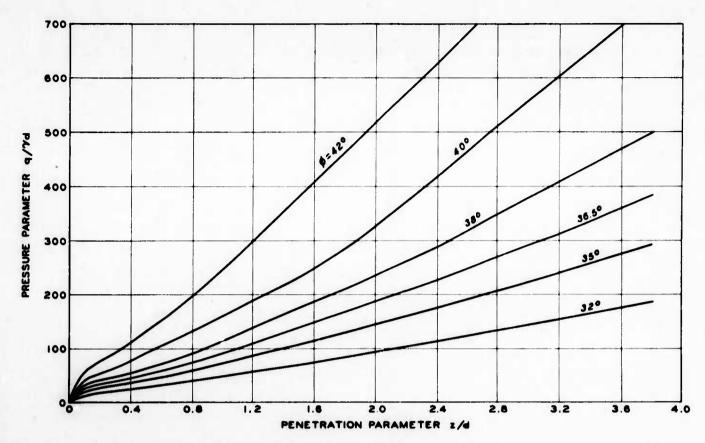


Fig. 11. Brinch Hansen's equation for vertically loaded circular footings in cohesionless soils

along that surface have not been validated. The shape factors in both equations 3 and 4 were empirically developed. Brinch Hansen does not consider variation of his solution with changes in the type of placement, roughness, and earth pressure coefficient. Therefore, to check values computed from these equations against the results of carefully conducted tests seemed important. That the equations deal only with the force on the base of the penetrating plates surmounted by cylinders must be emphasized.

Dimensionless Equations

26. An attempt to establish appropriate scaling relations for forces and displacements based on significant system parameters was deemed feasible. The variables considered in the formulation of this program and in the analysis were:

Variable	Symbol	Dimension*	
Significant linear footing dimension	e	L	
Footing width or diameter	đ	L	
Footing length	ъ	L	
Footing area	Α	r ₅	
Footing circumference	s	L	
Footing penetration (sinkage)	z	L	
Force on footings	F	F	
Unit pressure on footing	P , q	FL-2	
Soil cohesion	c	FL ⁻²	
Soil friction angle	ø	Dimensionless	
Soil consistency	γ , G	_{FL} -3	
Soil relative density	Dr	Dimensionless	
Rate of loading	v	LT ⁻¹	
Gravity	g	LT ⁻²	
Viscosity	β	FTL ⁻²	

^{*} The following dimensional notation is used in this report: L--length, F--force, and T--time.

- 27. Since the rate of loading v was relatively slow (2.5 mm/sec), it seemed reasonable to disregard any viscous or inertial effects in this analysis. When these effects are ignored, the following functional relations can be written for circular penetration elements:
 - a. For cohesionless soils:

$$F/\gamma \ell^3$$
 or $P/\gamma \ell = f(z/\ell, \emptyset)$ (5)

b. For cohesive soils:

$$F/c\ell^2$$
 or $P/c = f(z/\ell, \gamma\ell/c)$ (6)

28. A number of authors suggest the addition of a shape factor on the right-hand side of the functional relations. In this program, only circular penetration elements were used, so this factor could not be evaluated.

29. Although the significant linear dimension term ℓ appears on both sides in each relation, the same physical footing dimensions need not be used on both sides of a given relation. For instance, the penetration parameter, z/ℓ , can be represented by any of the following:

Again, since only circular footings were used in this program, the adequacy of forms intended to account for variations in shape (i.e. z/\sqrt{A} , z/s, z/\sqrt{sd} , z/\sqrt{sb}) could not be assessed. For convenience, the form z/d was used for this analysis.

- 30. The force parameter $F/\gamma \ell^3$ and the pressure parameter $P/\gamma \ell$ for cohesionless soils differ only by a constant when a single shape of footing is considered. To facilitate comparison of the test results with values derived from existing bearing capacity equations, the form $P/\gamma d$ was selected.
- 31. These selections having been made, the functional relation for cohesionless soils becomes:

$$P/\gamma d = f(z/d, \emptyset) \tag{7}$$

PART IV: TEST RESULTS

Evaluation of Strength-Density Profiles

- 32. One problem in conducting and analyzing bearing capacity tests in cohesionless soils is the preparation and description of soil conditions. Heretofore, it has been customary to assume that the prepared soil section will not vary in density with depth when the soil is sprinkled into the test pit from a constant height and at a constant rate of flow. Other experimenters have assumed that a uniform in situ strength increase with depth, as measured by a cone penetrometer or similar instrument, is an indication that density does not change with depth.
- 33. In this program an effort was made to place the soil in such a manner as to produce the desired density and to minimize variation in density with depth. Thus, the proper design and use of a sand-sprinkling system (fig. 3) capable of handling large quantities of sand was of primary importance. To assess the effectiveness of this system, in situ density was measured with gravimetric and nuclear devices both during and after the construction of the test sections. These measurements were accompanied by cone penetration tests. Results of cone penetration tests and density measurements in Yuma sand at relative densities of 20, 52, and 85 percent are shown in plate 1 (there were no deep penetrations made in test series 1 and 2, plate la); plate 2 contains similar data for tests in mortar sand at relative densities of 34, 55, and 92 percent. In general, the goal of producing test sections that did not vary in density with depth was achieved. The corresponding cone penetration tests indicated a tendency for the rate of increase in penetration resistance with depth to begin decreasing at depths greater than 10 to 15 cone diameters (23 to 34 cm), particularly in the loose and medium-dense sections. Vesić 12,13 published similar findings.
- 34. Also important is the fact that gravimetric density measurements made at the surface of each of several layers during construction agreed with nuclear density measurements made at corresponding locations after construction (see plate 1). This means that the construction operations on layers above a particular layer did not cause any appreciable increase in

density of those lower layers. Thus, gravimetric density measurements made during construction appear adequate for describing the density-depth profile for test sections as deep as those used in this program.

Examination of Pressure-Sinkage Relations

35. Pressure-sinkage data were obtained for plates alone or plates surmounted by smooth- and rough-walled cylinders in the two sands, each prepared to three relative densities. However, not all of the footings were used in each test series (see tabulation in paragraph 17). The data from tests conducted with plates in Yuma sand at the three levels of density are the most complete, and the shapes of the penetration resistance curves (plate 3) are similar to those obtained from tests with both types of cylindrical footings. The most complete set of data for the mortar sand was obtained from tests with the smooth-walled cylinders. Curves representing these data are shown in plate 4. At the lowest densities, the pressure-sinkage curves for a variety of footing diameters tend to coincide. As density increases, the curves first begin to separate and finally, at the highest densities, cross. That the relations changed with density illustrates the necessity for considering a wide range of densities or relative densities in any evaluation of bearing capacity equations based on dimensional analysis or theory. For example, the adequacy of a dimensionless relation is not really assessed when the effort is limited to tests at a low density, but the ability to achieve a collapse of pressure-sinkage curves, such as those representing the densest mortar and Yuma sand, is a true test of the adequacy of the dimensionless equations involved (see paragraphs 39-50).

Effects of Footing Configuration

Plates versus cylinders

36. Because of the difference in boundary conditions, a difference in the shape of the penetration resistance (pressure on the base) curves for plates and cylinders (smooth or rough sidewalls) was anticipated. However, there are no basic differences in the shape of the curves, as can be

seen from the representative curves in plate 5, although the pressures on the bases of the cylinders tend to be slightly larger. These data represent penetration tests in sand at both high and low relative densities.

Smooth-walled versus rough-walled cylinders

- 37. When tests with smooth-walled and rough-walled cylinders were compared, the following questions were raised:
 - a. Are there changes in the pressures on the bases?
 - b. Are there changes in the vertical sidewall friction per unit area?

Results from tests with two sizes of smooth-walled and rough-walled cylinders in sands of different consistencies are compared in plate 6. For z/d values in excess of approximately 0.5, the pressure on the base P is somewhat greater for the rough-walled cylinders in most comparative penetrations. Rough cylinders produce higher vertical pressures around the plate and, thereby, increase the resistance or bearing capacity. However, the data do not reveal any consistent variations that might be related to a specific behavioral characteristic of the soil.

38. A comparison of the relations of sidewall friction per unit area P_s versus penetration parameter z/d obtained from the same group of tests shown in plate 6 is presented in plate 7. P_s is slightly larger for the rough-walled cylinders, but there is no systematic variation in P_s with density or friction angle in either sand. P_s is highest for the densest material in each case, but the tests at the lowest densities indicated higher sidewall friction per unit area than did the tests at the intermediate densities in seven of the eight cases illustrated. This information definitely indicates that no simple equation can be established to relate P_s to a specific soil property, such as friction angle, void ratio, consistency, or relative density.

Evaluation of Dimensionless Forms

Pressure parameter versus penetration parameter

39. Individual data curves. The first step in evaluating equation 7,

 $P/\gamma d = f(z/d, \emptyset)$, was to establish the relation between $P/\gamma d$ (the pressure parameter) and z/d (the penetration parameter). To do this, the data from tests in Yuma and mortar sands with circular plates and smooth- and rough-walled cylinders were plotted by using these two parameters as shown in plates 8-13. These data represent relative densities of 20, 52, and 85 percent in Yuma sand and 34, 55, and 92 percent in mortar sand. The plate data collapse about as well as the cylinder data; the degree of collapse for plates and cylinders is somewhat better at the lower densities. There is some tendency, however, for data from plates and cylinders 10 cm in diameter and smaller to separate from the rest of the data. This separation possibly may be attributed to the interlocking of sand grains, which makes the soil behave as though it had a small amount of cohesion. Triaxial tests on both sands have indicated cohesive strength up to 6.895 kN/m2. Considering the general bearing capacity relation (equation 2), it can be concluded that this would tend to cause a separation, because the portion of the penetration resistance attributable to the apparent cohesive strength of the soil increases as the footing diameter decreases. Vesic 12,13 has indicated that the mode of failure in cohesionless material changes from punching, to local, to general shear, and is related to relative density and the magnitude of the penetration parameter. This difference in failure mode, if it occurs, would tend to cause the data from the tests with small footings to separate from the main group.

- 40. The data led to the conclusion that pressure-sinkage relations for large footings in sand can be predicted from model tests with a fair degree of accuracy if the linear scale is not greater than 5 to 1. Thus, model footings should be as large as practical to enhance accuracy. At least some of the laboratory experiments that have been conducted to evaluate and/or generate bearing capacity relations or theories have been based, at least in part, on tests with small model footings. Extension of these data to considerably larger footings may have been responsible for the lack of agreement between bearing capacity theory and laboratory test results.
- 41. <u>Summary curves</u>. The similarity in the data obtained for the three types of footings having been illustrated, summary curves representing the average results from the tests conducted with only the smooth-walled

cylinders in Yuma and mortar sands are shown in plate 14. A unique relation is shown for each test series (constant relative density), and the magnitude of P/2d at any value of z/d increases in both sands as the relative density increases. The conclusion at this point is that an additional parameter, such as friction angle, must be considered in the analysis, or that some indicator of soil property that reflects the combined effect of density and friction angle should be considered. This is in agreement with the functional relation in equation 7.

Variations in pressure-sinkage relations with friction angle

42. A unique relation of the form $P/\gamma d = f(z/d)$ was shown to exist for a given density or friction angle for each sand. The next step was to construct cross plots to relate the friction angle to the pressure parameter $P/\gamma d$ at several values of the penetration parameter z/d. These plots indicated that the relation of the friction angle to the pressure parameter can be described by the following equation:

$$P/\gamma d = a \tan \phi^{7}$$

$$a = P/\gamma d \tan \phi^{-7}$$
(8)

or

where a is a constant of proportionality. This led to the conclusion that for each constant value of the penetration parameters, there is a corresponding value of the term P/vd tan \emptyset^{-7} . This information for both sands is plotted in plate 15. The values of density, relative density, and triaxial friction angle of the two sands are as follows:

	Y	uma Sand		Mortar Sand			
Density kN/m3	y	Relative Density D _r , %	Triaxial Friction Angle Ø deg	Density)	Relative Density D _r , %	Triaxial Friction Angle Ø deg	
14.14		20	35	14.72	34	30	
14.93		52	36.5	15.05	55	31	
15.87		85	40	16.40	92	3 6	

43. While the data for a given type of sand collapse readily in

plate 15, the data for the two sands differ widely. In reexamining the plots for Yuma and mortar sands that are at comparable relative densities in plate 14 (the actual densities are very nearly equal in this case), the penetration parameters at given values of the pressure parameters can be seen to agree within a few percentage points. Thus, the fact that the curves for the two sands are separated when a friction angle term is added indicates that the friction angle may be in error for one of these sands. Other available information on the two sands indicates that the friction angle may be low for the mortar sand (see paragraphs 44-48). A comparison of these data with theoretical calculations (see paragraphs 51-53) corroborates the assumption that the effect of friction angle on the mortar sand is larger than implied by conventional triaxial compression tests. Other tests reported by WES¹⁴ indicate that the triaxial tests give an unreasonably low friction angle for the mortar sand (termed Reid-Bedford in reference 14).

44. Some existing literature suggests that volume changes and associated friction angle changes during the penetration test might contribute to the problem. Other literature suggests that an inaccuracy in the triaxial test as a means of measuring friction angle should be considered. Broms indicated that a shell effect of small triaxial specimens produced an effective reduction in the minor principal stress σ_3 , i.e. σ_3 was less than the confining pressure in the triaxial chamber; therefore, the computed friction angle, when based on the confining pressure, is too small.* He indicated further that the measured friction angle from standard triaxial tests may be as much as 4 deg too small for very dense sand, and that for loose sand the standard measurement may be adequate.**

45. Cornforth has pointed out that while the peak friction angle based on the maximum shear stresses for plane strain and dense sand in

^{* &}quot;A difference in the friction angle, Ø, of 3-4 deg is sufficient to explain the difference observed by a number of investigators for dense sand between extension and compression tests and between the calculated and measured bearing capacity of model footings."

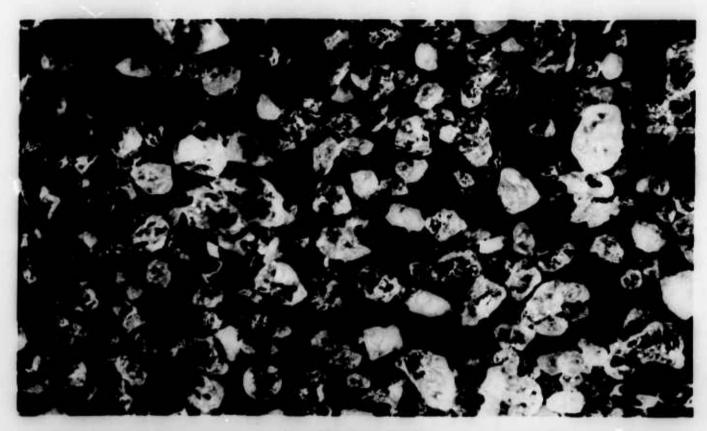
^{** &}quot;Experiments by Brinch Hansen (1961) and Tcheng (1957) have indicated that the bearing capacity of model footings placed on dense sand may exceed considerably that predicted by existing bearing capacity theories if the shear-strength parameters determined from standard triaxial compression tests are used in the analysis of the test data. However, close agreement was found for footings located on medium to loose sand."

general is 10 percent higher than the corresponding triaxial test friction angles, the friction angles from the plane strain generally match the triaxial values quite well when the ultimate shear stress values are used. This finding agrees generally with the limited data available on Yuma sand, but not with those available for mortar sand.

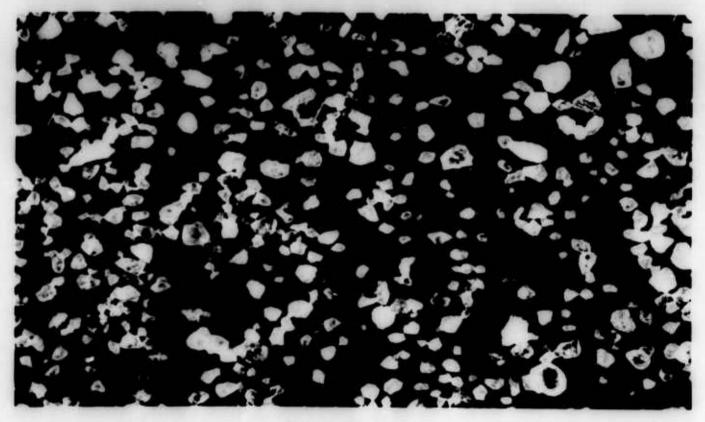
46. Plane strain tests were recently conducted on both sands by personnel at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Results of these tests are compared with triaxial and direct shear data in plate 16. The plane strain data indicate that the peak friction angle (based on the maximum shear stress) for one sand may be approximately equal to that of the other sand at a given density. The data definitely indicate that friction angles from plane strain tests are higher than those obtained from triaxial tests at the high dry densities, and may be higher in the entire density range. The triaxial test indicates a difference of 5 deg or more in the friction angle of the two sands at a given density. The ultimate values of the friction angles from the plane strain test in Yuma sand indicated friction angles approximately equal to triaxial test results. On the other hand, plane strain ultimate friction angles for the mortar sand were noticeably higher than those taken from triaxial tests in the same material. In the photograph of both sands (fig. 12), mortar sand is seen to be coarser and more angular, and the surfaces of the individual grains are not as well polished as those of the Yuma sand, and thus the degree of interlocking may be greater. On the basis of the foregoing observations and an examination of the enlarged photographs of the sand grains, it seems reasonable to assume that the shell effect in triaxial specimens is greater for the mortar sand than for the Yuma sand. The data from triaxial and plane strain tests seem to corroborate this assumption.

47. The following friction angles for the mortar sand were estimated, based on the ultimate values from the plane strain tests, which were assumed to correspond to triaxial test data corrected for shell effect:

Density kN/m3	Y	Relative Density	Friction Angle
14.72		34	33
15.05 16.40		55	35
16.40		92	40



a. Mortar sand



b. Yuma sand

Fig. 12. Sand grains magnified 25 times

Estimating these friction angles was justified by the correspondence of the triaxial friction angle data for the Yuma sand to the ultimate values from the plane strain tests, the hypothesized triaxial shell effects in mortar sand, and the high bearing capacity of the mortar sand (compared to computed values based on Brinch Hansen's equation and triaxial friction angles).

- 48. When these friction angles are substituted for the original triaxial values in the relation $P/\gamma d = f(z/d \cdot \tan \phi^{-7})$, then a single curve can be developed to delineate the relation for both sands (see plate 17). Other dimensionless forms
- 49. Penetration resistance gradient. The functional equation $P/\gamma d = f(z/d, \emptyset)$ (equation 7) states that the pressure-sinkage relation for a cohesionless soil is a function not only of the soil's unit weight, but also of the angle of internal friction. At this point, some reconsideration is appropriate; perhaps a term that reflects changes in γ and \emptyset can be substituted for γ and/or \emptyset . The experiences in dimensional scaling of tire performance data¹⁷ and those derived from dynamic loading of model footings¹⁴ suggest that the penetration resistance gradient G (rate of increase in strength with depth computed from cone penetration tests) is sensitive to changes in both γ and \emptyset . If this is a valid statement, a new functional relation can be written as follows:

$$P/Gd = f(z/d)$$
 (9)

(A similar form was used in the references cited above.) One problem in using the parameter G is that a decision must be made as to what total depth should be considered in computing the appropriate value, i.e. to what depth and degree is the material beneath the plate being stressed, and what is the anticipated depth of penetration. This means computing G for each size of footing. Obviously, some simplification is desirable so that a single value of G can be obtained for a homogeneous sand layer. Since no pronounced layers were noticeable from the cone penetration tests, and the cone penetration resistance was not linear over depths much greater than 15 cm, even in the uniform densities represented in the test sections, the

value of G was based on the strength of the 0- to 15-cm layer. When the data from plate 14 (P/ γ d versus z/d for each of the six test series with smooth-walled cylinders) are converted to the form P/Gd versus z/d, the relation shown in plate 18 is obtained. In general, the data appear to collapse. That the parameter G tends to collapse the data for both sands into a single curve corroborates the statement that the friction angles used for the mortar sand in the development of plate 15 were too low, i.e. the plot indicates that the friction angles are comparable for the two sands. Results from one test series (No. 7) do not match those of the other five series, probably because the sand for series 7 was prepared by a method different from that used for the other five (see paragraph 9).* Only when the values of G, γ , and \emptyset were related did the results from series 7 vary from those of the other series.

50. Relative density. Relative density is a soil property that is related to friction angle. Since it, too, is dimensionless, examination of the following relation seemed reasonable:

$$P/\gamma d = f\left(\frac{z}{d}, D_r\right)$$
 (10)

A satisfactory collapse of the test data was not achieved. The difficulty in determining relative density (various methods exist) and the sensitivity of the form of the mathematical relation finally used, i.e.

$$P/vd \cdot 1/D_r = f(\frac{z}{d})$$

to small changes in relative density are ascribed as the reasons for the failure of the data to collapse.

Comparison of Measured and Computed Relations

51. Following the development of the dimensionless equations,

^{*} The WES has experimented with methods of preparing dry sand sections at various densities, including sprinkling, rolling with pneumatic tires, vibrating of layers, vibrating of entire specimens, and others. The relations among G, γ , and \emptyset are not unique, but vary with the method of preparation. A satisfactory explanation of this phenomenon has not been found.

comparison of the data obtained with results computed by bearing capacity equations developed by others, specifically those of Meyerhof and Brinch Hansen, seemed appropriate. Since the equations of these two researchers have already been compared (paragraphs 18-25), the results obtained from the dimensionless equations herein will be compared with results obtained only by Brinch Hansen's equation.

- 52. Average curves for each series representing tests in Yuma and mortar sands are compared in plates 19a and 19b, respectively, with curves based on the Brinch Hansen equation (equation 4). For the Yuma sand, friction angles of 40, 36.5, and 35 deg, corresponding to results of the triaxial tests and densities shown in plate 1, were used. The Yuma sand data agree quite well with the computed results.
- 53. The curves representing computed values for mortar sand tests are based on equation 4 and on friction angles computed from the ultimate shear stresses measured during the plane strain tests. When these values are used, the mortar sand data agree reasonably well with theory. On the other hand, when triaxial test friction angles are used, the footing pressures computed by equation 4 are approximately one-half those measured during the mortar sand test series. For example, at a z/d value of 2.6, taken from the curve representing the densest material, the measured value of $P/\gamma d$ is approximately 486. The computed value of $P/\gamma d$, using equation 4 and the corresponding triaxial friction angle of 36.3 deg, is approximately 230.
- 54. A change in friction angle of 3 to 4 deg can cause a change in the computed bearing capacity by a factor of approximately 2 when the friction angle is generally within the 30- to 40-deg range. In light of this fact and the problem of obtaining a reliable friction angle measurement, results of model-footing tests to predict bearing capacity of cohesionless soils may be preferred to a theory-based prediction that requires an accurate friction angle measurement.

PART V: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

- 55. Based on the interpretation of the data herein, the conclusions are:
 - a. Controlled sprinkling of sand can be used to produce a uniform sand density (paragraphs 33-34).
 - b. The penetration resistance versus depth data, expressed by the dimensionless parameters P/yd and z/d, form a single curve for a given sand. This is in conformity with the bearing capacity theories (paragraphs 39-41).
 - c. There are no basic differences in the shape of penetration resistance curves for plates and cylinders. The pressures on the bases of the cylinders are slightly larger, however. The function of the cylinders is primarily to prevent collapse of sand walls above the plate. Tests confirm theoretical considerations (paragraph 36).
 - d. Consistent penetration data for plates and cylinders were obtained because of the uniformity of the soil and small influence of sidewall friction. The data should be very valuable in future investigations of basic bearing capacity factors (depth factors).
 - e. The conclusions above indicate that the bearing capacity of a given plate may be estimated either by model tests or by the bearing capacity theories, but the latter also require accurate determination of the angle of internal friction \$\phi\$, which may be difficult (paragraphs 44-48).
 - f. Standard cone penetration tests, performed to verify the uniformity of the sand density, furnished curves that are nearly straight for the upper 10 to 15 cm. Introducing this slope as an additional variable permitted the dimensionless relations for two different sands to be represented by a single curve (paragraph 49).
 - g. Pressures on the bases P and cylinder sidewall friction per unit area P_s are greater for rough-walled cylinders than for smooth-walled ones. There appears to be no relation between the magnitude of P_s and any specific soil property (paragraphs 37 and 38).

Recommendations

56. With respect to experience gained from penetration tests in sand, it is recommended that:

- a. Triaxial and plane strain tests be conducted on sands with various grain sizes, shapes, and surface roughnesses to seek a more reliable method of determining friction angles of cohesionless soils.
- <u>b</u>. Penetration tests be conducted in sand to study shape effects (i.e. squares, circles, and rectangles of various aspect ratios).
- c. Penetration tests be conducted in layered frictional soils.

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	ed Cylinders, om Diam	(F)	882888 868888 868888	46,273 42,134 42,134 43,072 43,772	5,574 5,746 5,737	50,468 52,257 52,255 53,963 54,378	25,449 26,588 27,662 26,130 10,130		3.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5.5	31,85 33,747 33,986 37,186	38.599 19.875 15.184 15.143	44,974 148,974 50,527	
	h-Wall	d (Continued)	18,754 19,179 19,652 20,032 20,509 20,509	22,348 22,348 22,348 23,307 23,307	24,293 24,594 26,289 26,198	26,668 27,133 27,591 28,500 29,442	11.1111	Yunn Sand	6,928 8,920 8,752 8,928	9,907 10,758 11,284 11,928 12,558 13,312	4.22.25.78.80 6.4.2.29.99.80 6.4.2.29.99.80	19,606 20,506 21,355	
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Table 1 (Continued)

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00 33 at 30 45	12,393 13,194 14,08 15,640 15,640	17.358 17.952 18.827 19.655 20.709	22, 33,6 23, 13,6 25, 29,2 25, 29,2 26, 35,6 26, 35,6	28.856 29.725 29.725 31.494	24.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.	39.070 29.070 20.070 20.070 20.070 20.070 20.070	45.046 17.140 17.140 16.108 10.108	51, 221 52, 322 53, 095 54, 412 55, 578	57,502 58,528 59,816
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Cylinders, om 3C.45	12.078 12.078 13.600 14.117	16,311 17,947 17,948 18,643 19,334	21,056 21,804 22,629 23,342 24,218 25,131	25,938 27,581 29,534 29,634	30,776 30,732 30,514 35,222 35,222	37,926 37,926 39,642 40,555	81,373 12,269 13,269 14,154 15,082 16,015	16,853 17,530 18,953 19,522 50,580 51,218	52.250 53.097 54.0.5
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Table 1 (Continued)

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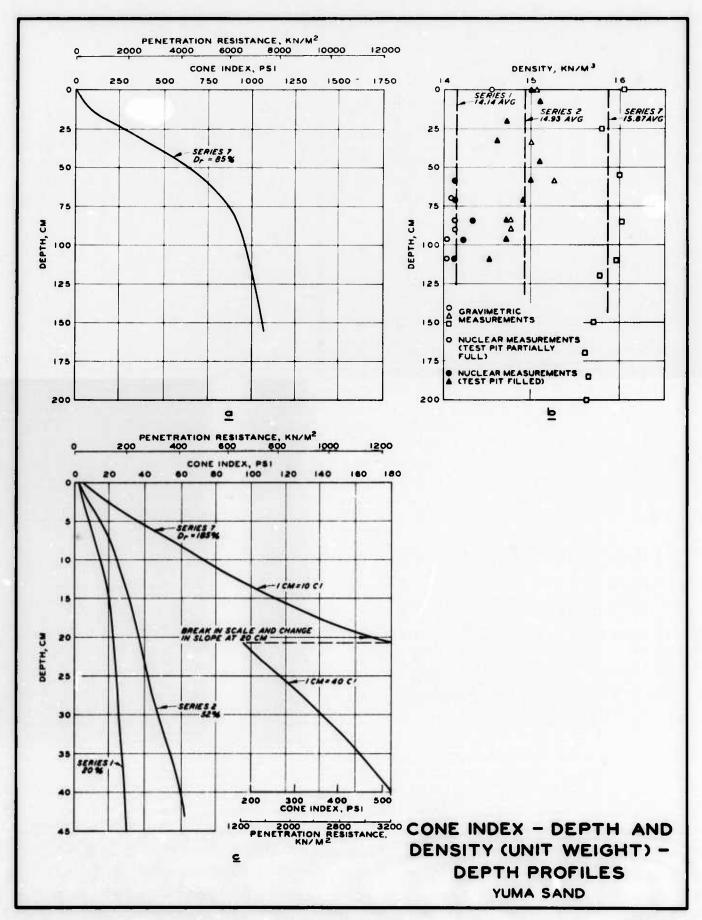
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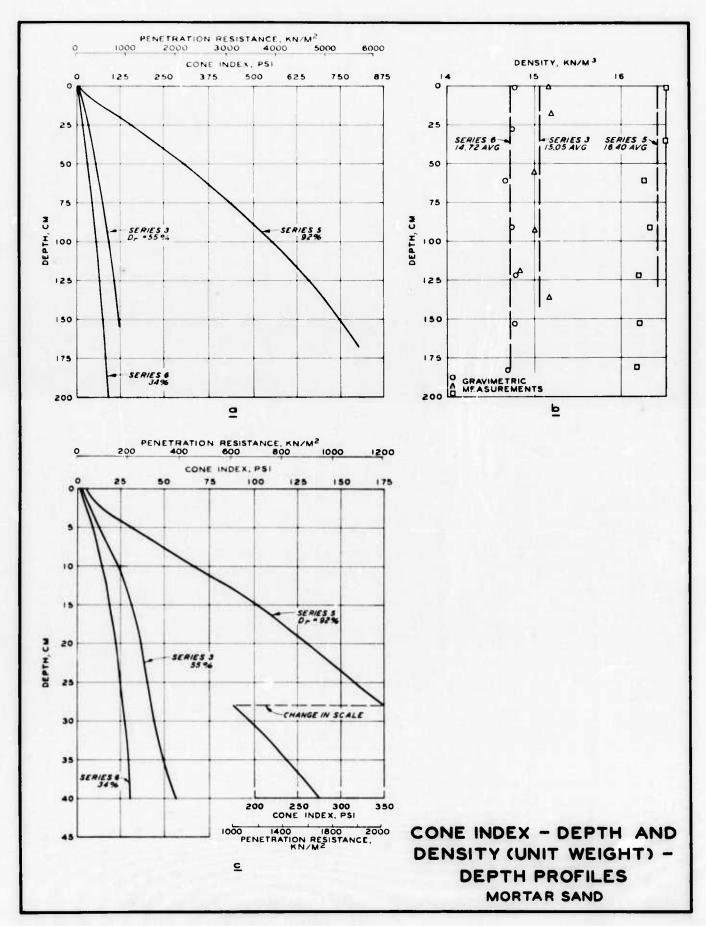
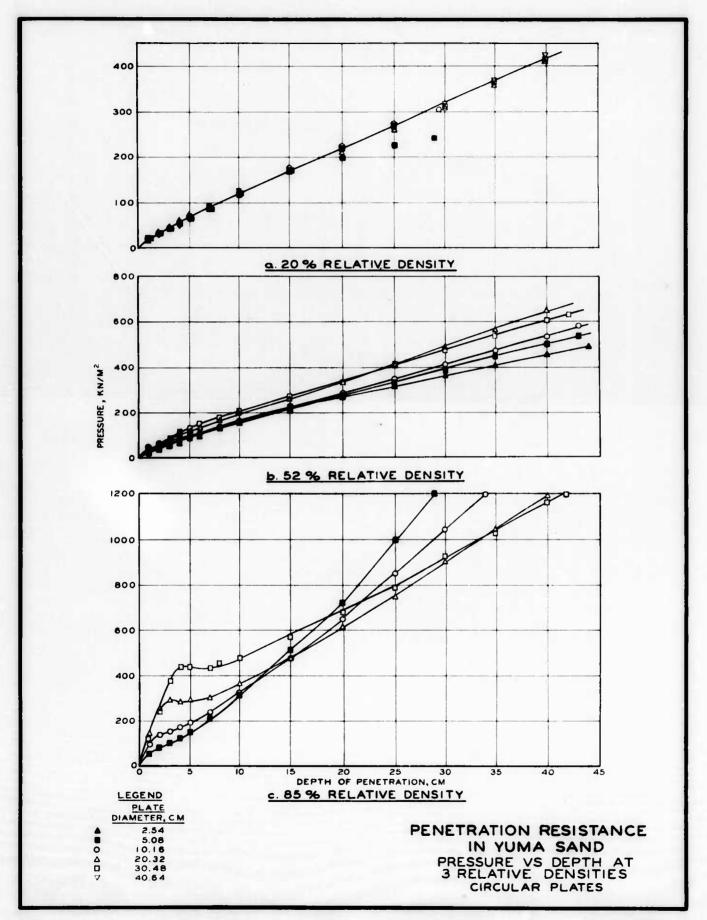


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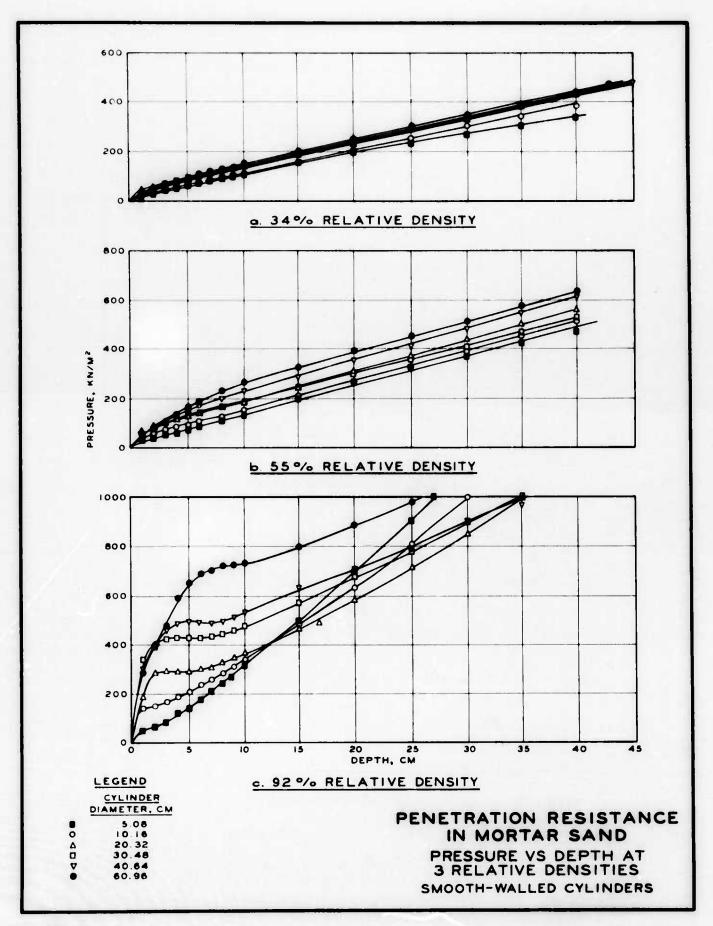


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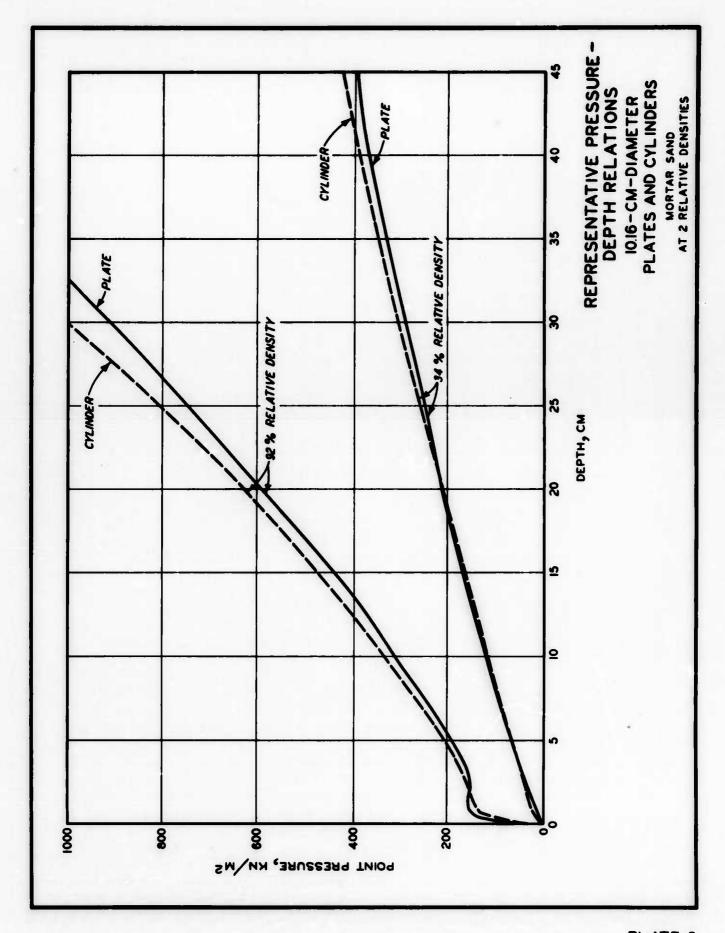
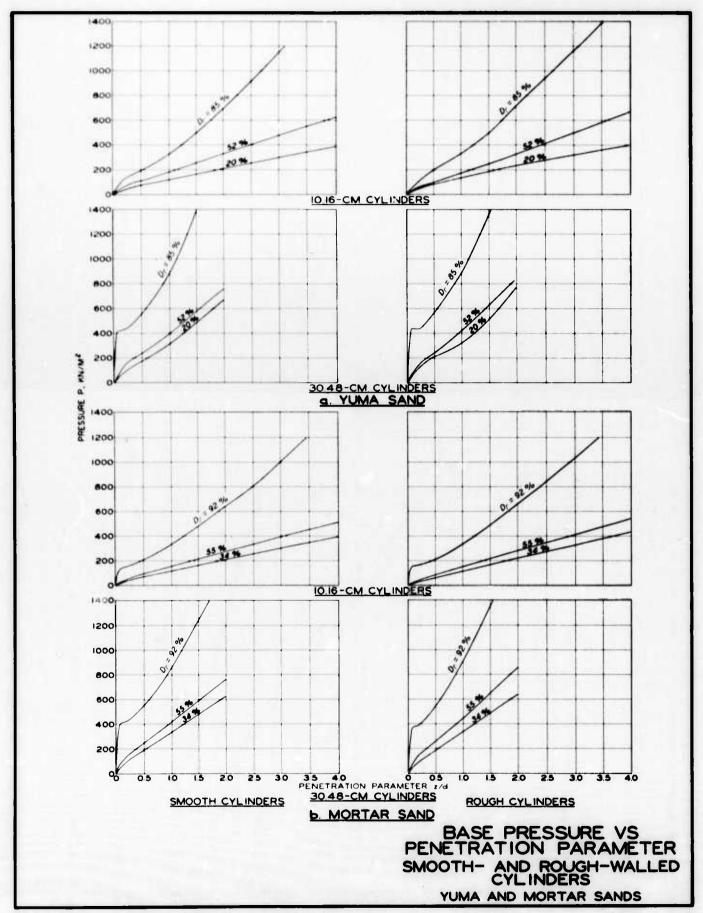
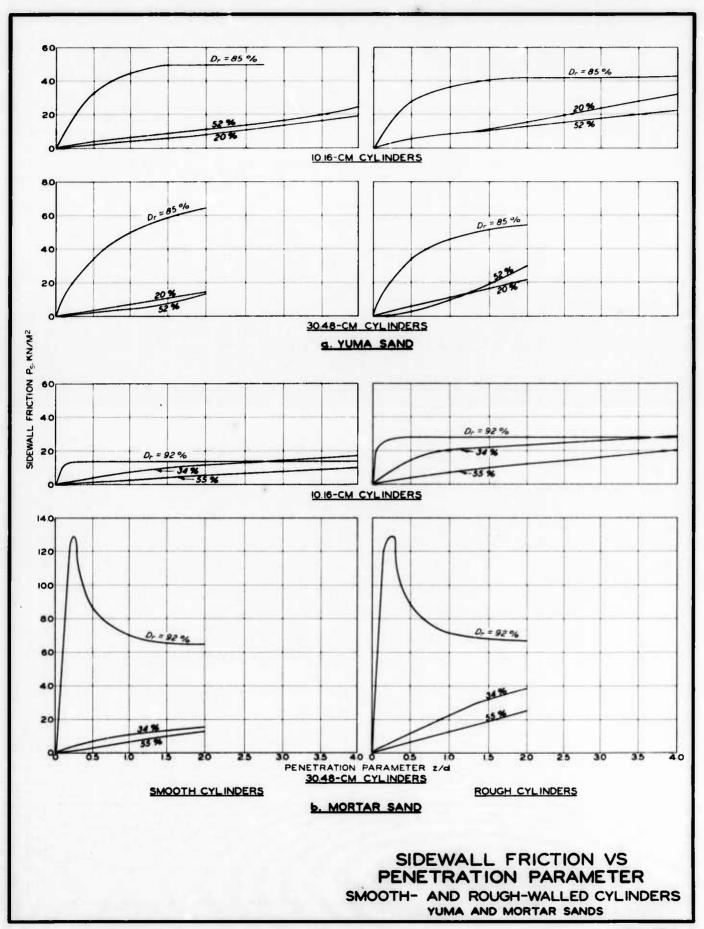


PLATE 5





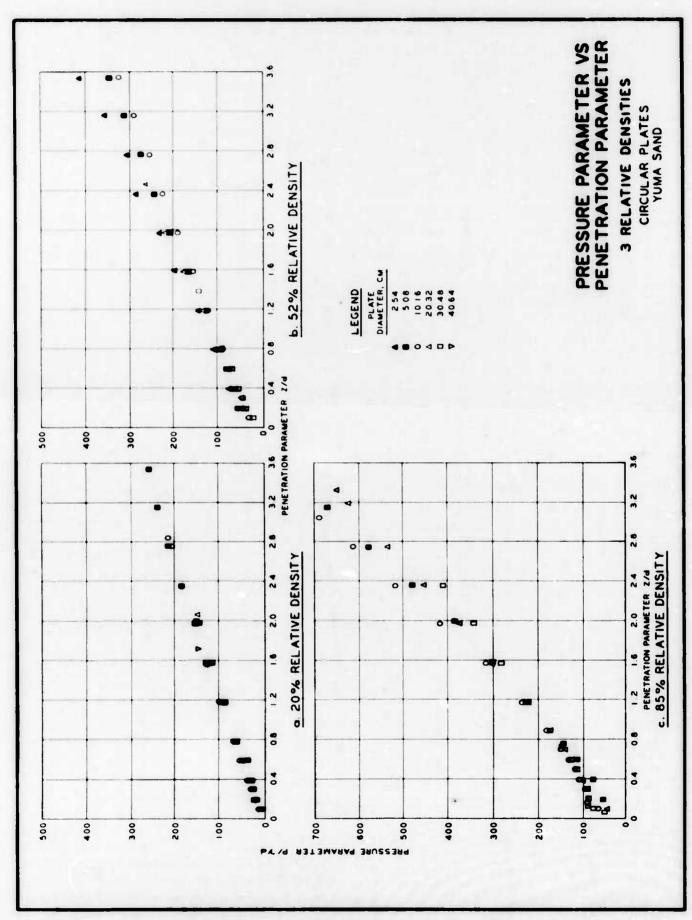
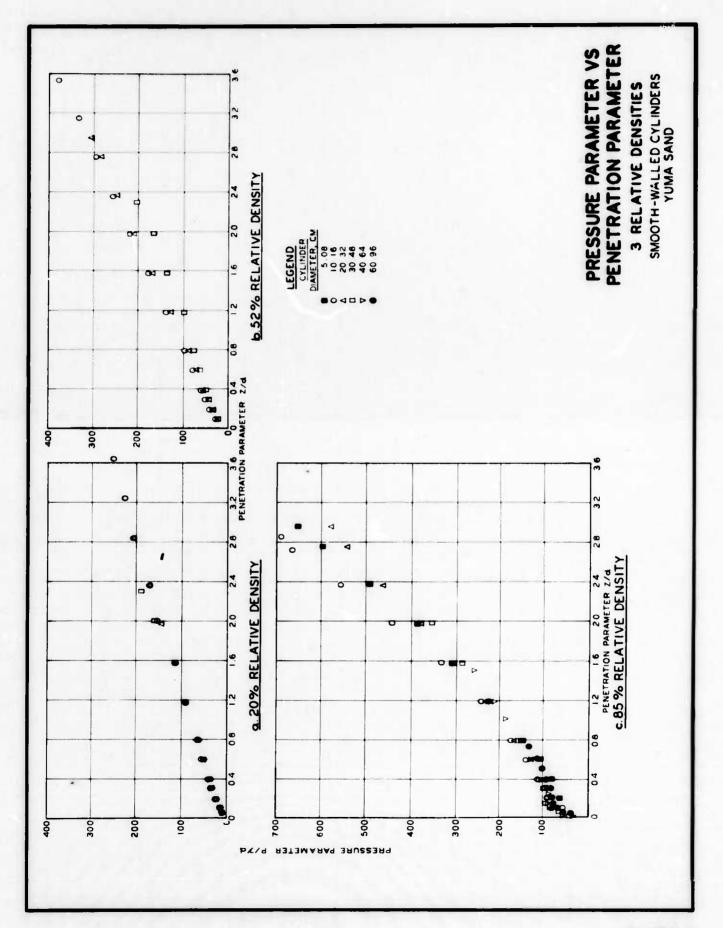


PLATE 8



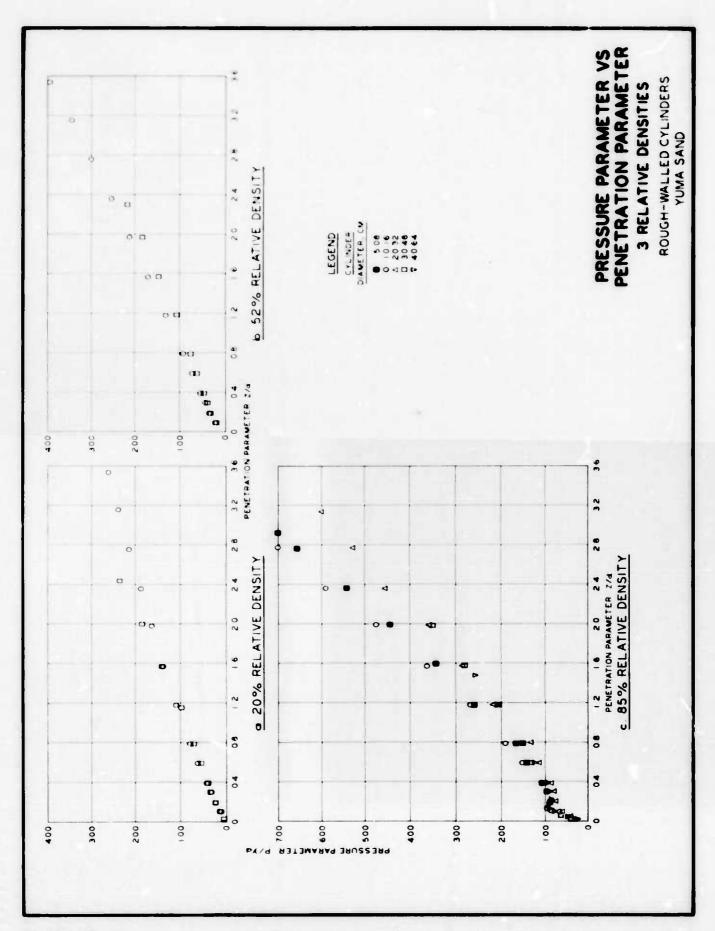
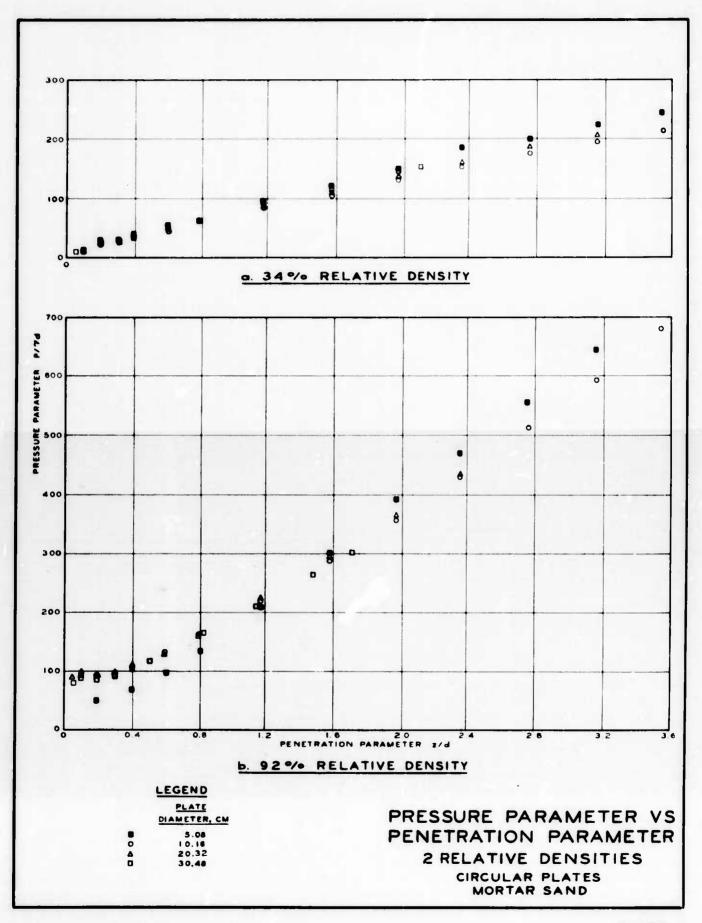
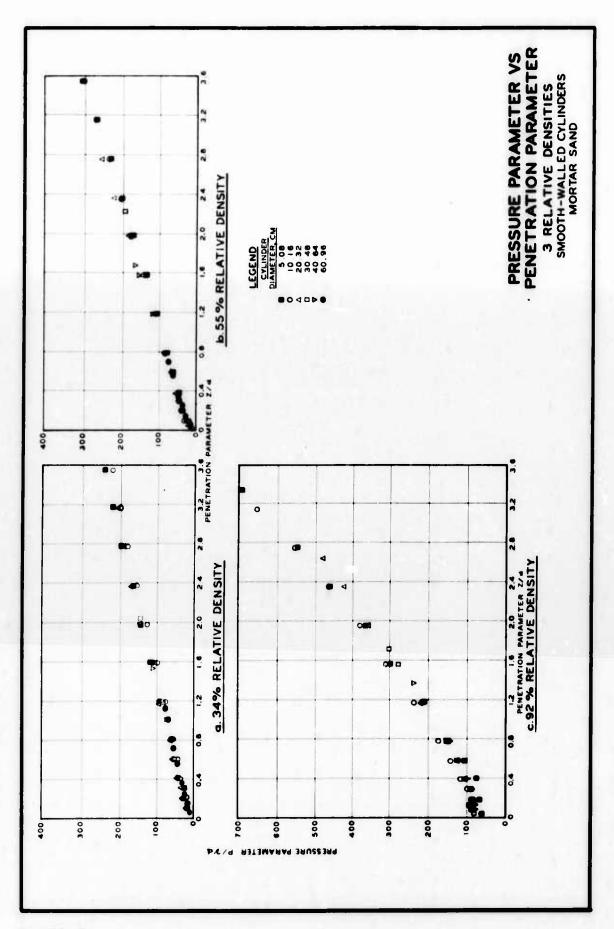
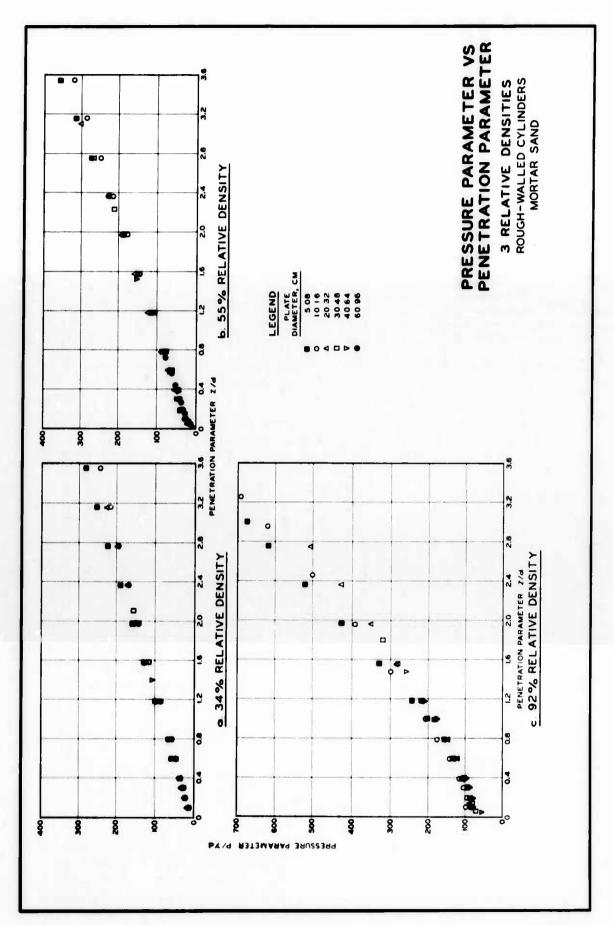
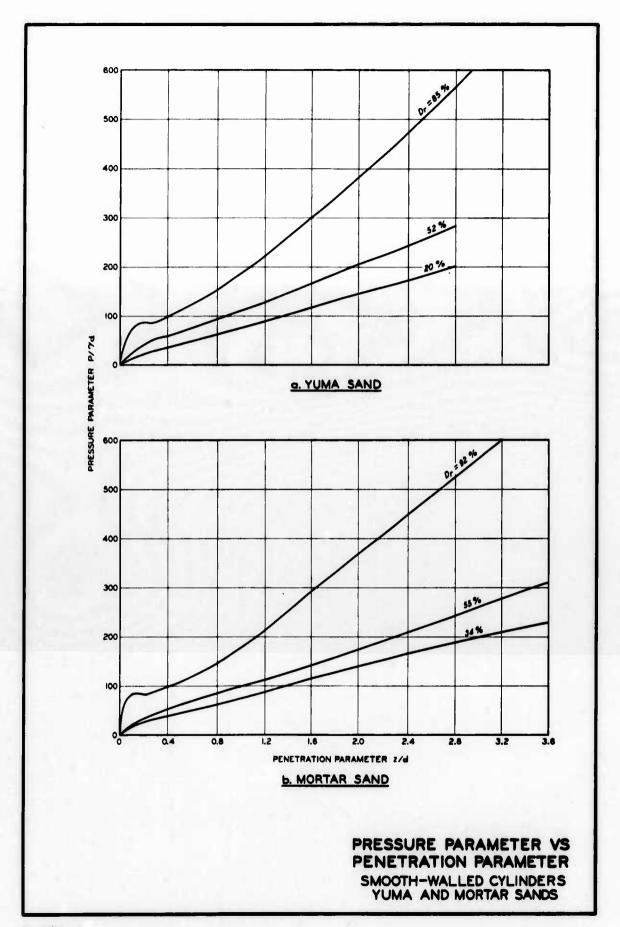


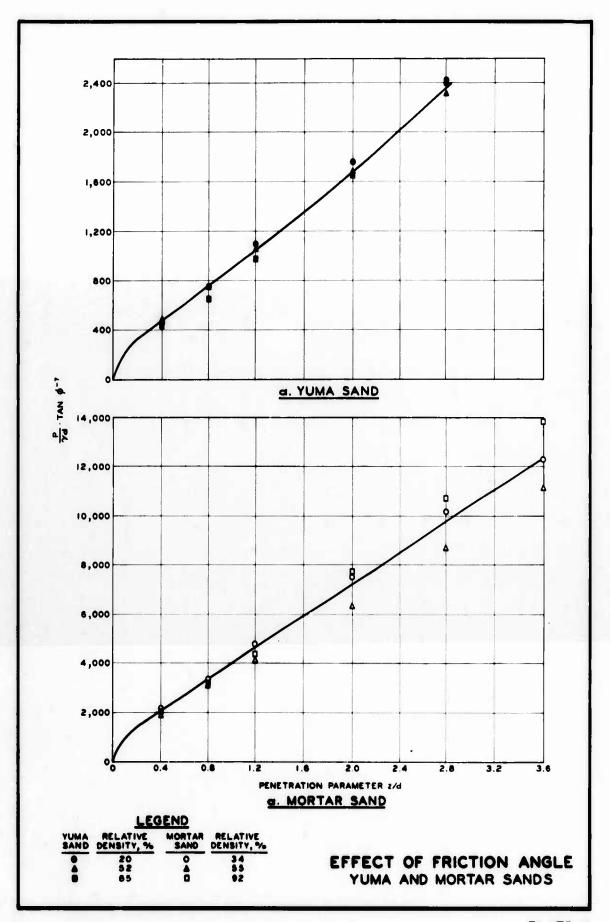
PLATE 10

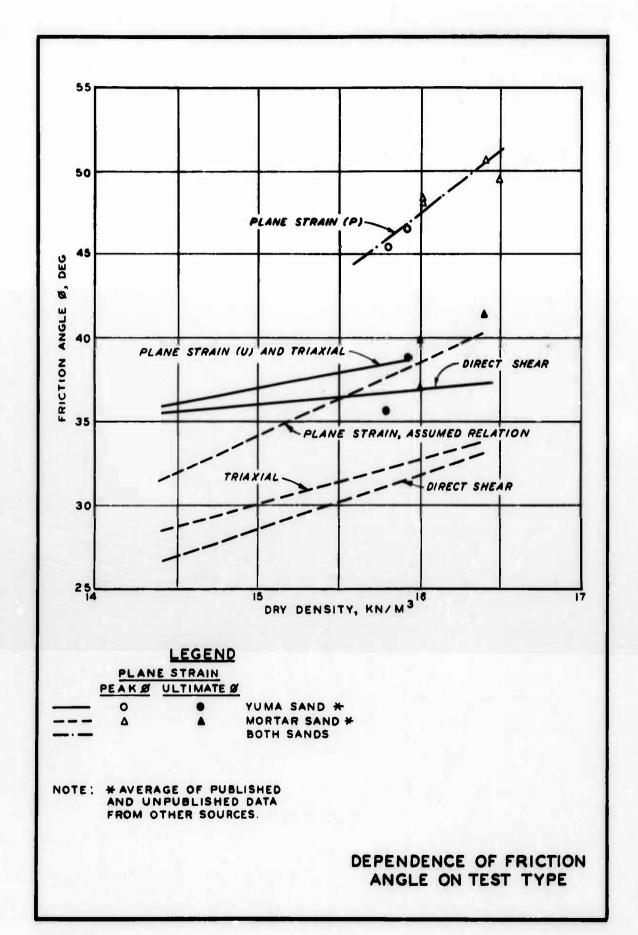


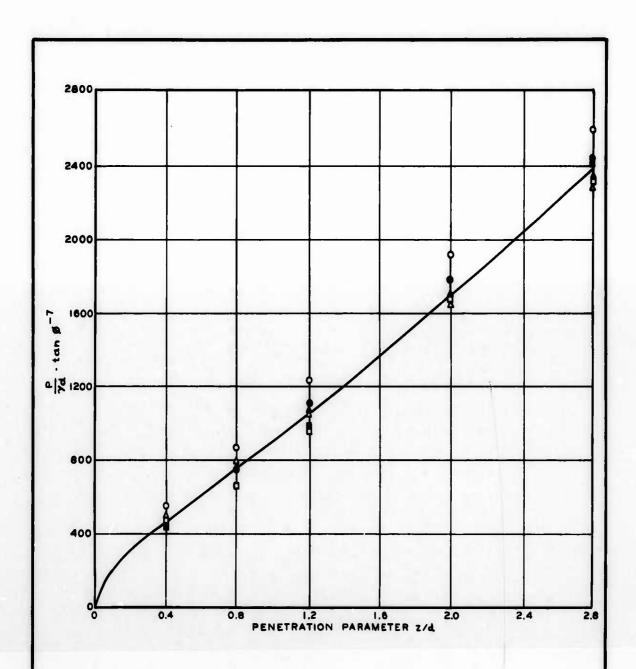








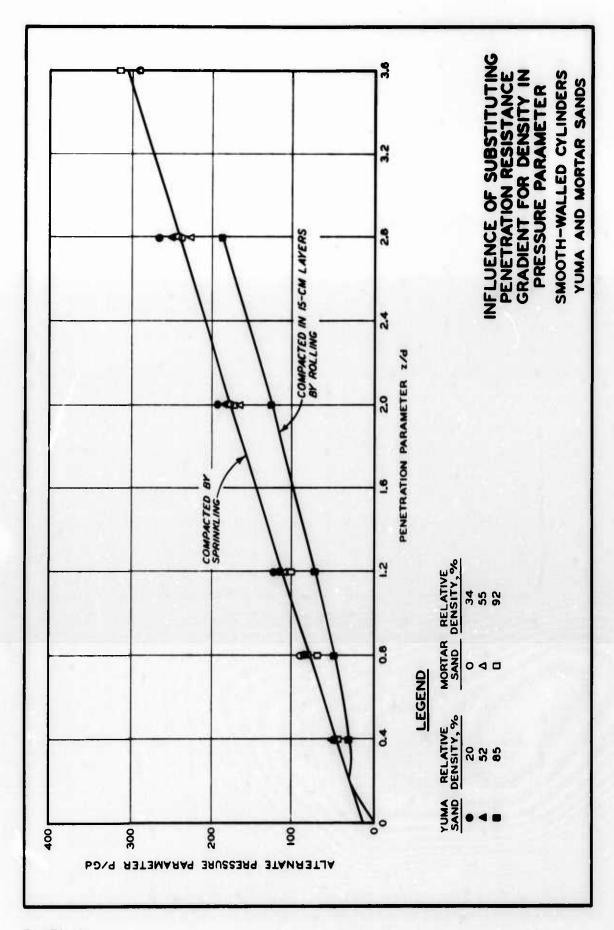


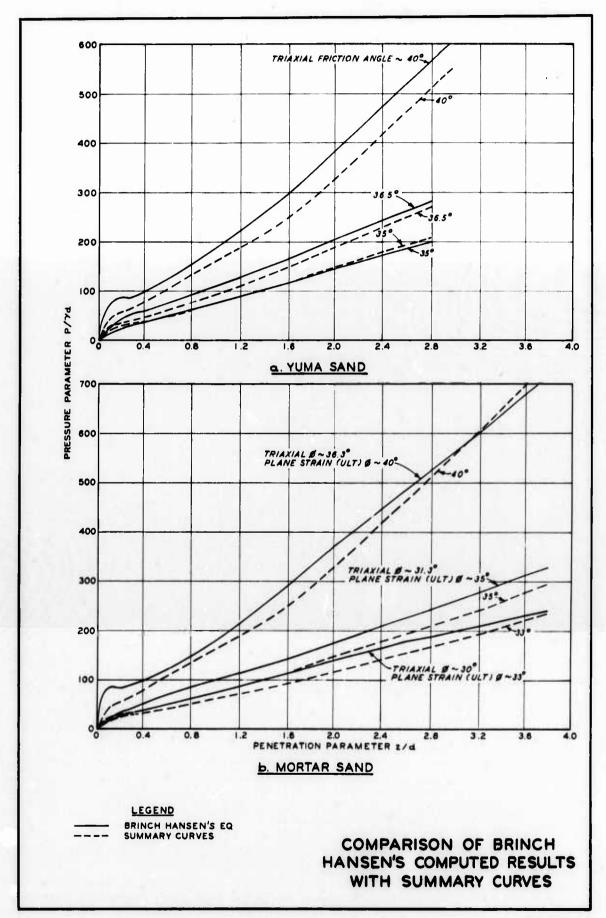


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The study reported herein is an analysis of	the nemetrati	on of ci	maulem mlates and
smooth-walled and rough-walled cylinders in levels. The penetration elements ranged from of penetration in all tests was 2.5 mm/sec. shape of the penetration resistance curves of the base of the cylinders were only slightly forces due to friction on the sidewalls of the walled cylinders than for the smooth, as contematically with sand density in either cases tion for sand was achieved by plotting a dim a penetration parameter z/d. This gave even thus bearing capacity, of large footings can less scaling relations and theoretical equations and theoretical equation angle make the use of these relations of were deemed successful and eliminated irregular routine tests. The data should also be of getters for bearing capacity of sand. This repairing tests in clay.	two sands, each on 2.5 to 61 cm. No basic differ plates and y higher than the cylinders will be expected e. Collapse of mensionless providence that problems that includes the problems that the problems that includes the problems that includes the problems that includes the problems that the problems that the problems	ach prepared in diameter ferences of cylinder those on were greated, but the father than the from model and a front in the for this pountered in investigation.	meter, and the speed were found in the ers, and the forces on the plates. The eater for the roughthey did not vary systa into a single functurameter P/yd versus sinkage relations, and del tests. Dimension-criction angle term measuring a true fricpurpose. The tests in the results of agations of depth fac-

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